

# 5 questions

with **RITU NANDA**

**H**AILED as Bollywood's original showman and quintessential *Awara*, Raj Kapoor has spawned a number of books and documentaries. However, *Raj Kapoor Speaks*, a pictorial coffee-table book by his daughter, Ritu Nanda, is touted as a no-holds-barred biography. It'll be released on Kapoor's 78th birthday anniversary on December 14, first by Atal Behari Vajpayee in New Delhi, and later that evening, by Vinod Khanna at ITC Grand Maratha Sheraton, Mumbai. Here, Nanda talks about the enduring legacy of her father.

## What's this book about?

It's a pictorial coffee-table book written in an autobiographical style. The 200-page, well-researched book deals with every aspect of papa's life — his childhood, films, heroines, philosophy and friends.

## How does it contribute to the study of Raj Kapoor?

The future researchers and historians on Raj Kapoor can refer to it. Here, he talks candidly about his varied passions. When we thought about bringing this book out, the entire Kapoor *khandan* gave this responsibility to me. Now it's up to the readers to judge how much I have succeeded in my efforts.

## Was it difficult to get material on him?

There's no lack of material; the problem is it's all scattered. The former USSR had published a book on him in the early '90s, but it went out of circulation after USSR disintegrated. I have used some of its

essays to present some of his close friends' views.

## The book also talks about his heroines. So, shall we expect some details about his alleged affairs?

I am just his daughter. I have allowed him to speak as he would have wished to. He was a frank, charming person. We have not hidden anything just because some people may not like it.

## Is anything else on him in the pipeline?

Right now I am occupied with the book. Besides, we are also bringing out two CD-ROMs on him, where some rare clips have him interacting with his children.

— **MOHAMMED WAJHUDDIN**



**Ritu Nanda in a nostalgic moment with her father Raj Kapoor**